

York North Loop Houseleague Softball Rules of Play



York North Loop Houseleague Softball Rules

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The following rules apply to **ALL YORK NORTH LOOP HOUSELEAGUE SOFTBALL GAMES** unless otherwise specified.

The York North Loop is a unique relationship between 5 York Region Softball Associations who are unified in their goal to provide fun, safe, inclusive, and competitive, Houseleague Girls Softball programming. The York North Loop consists of the Stouffville Softball Association, Richmond Hill Minor Softball Association, Newmarket Minor Softball Association, Aurora Diggers Softball Association, and Markham District Softball Association. A Houseleague schedule is created each season for girl's age divisions U11, U13, U15, U17, U19 and U21 and home and away games are played at the respective Associations permitted diamonds. The following Houseleague set of rules will apply for each age division as shown. The Board of Directors of each association will review and update, if necessary, these rules on an annual basis.

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1. Field Setup

Rule	U11	U13	U15	U17	U19	U23
pitcher's rubber (m)	10.67	11.58	12.2	13.1	13.1	13.1
pitcher's rubber (ft)	35	38	40	43	43	43
Baselines (m)	13.7	16.76	18.3	18.3	18.3	18.3
Baselines (ft)	45	55	60	60	60	60
All foul lines, batter's boxes & pitching circle to be properly chalked	x	x	x	x	x	x

2. Equipment

Rule	U11	U13	U15	U17	U19	U23
Ball Compression (max)/COR (min) shall be	375/.52	375/.52	375/.52	375/.52	375/.52	375/.52
Bats shall be of aluminum or composite construction	x	x				
Bats shall be approved per Softball Canada approved bats list as follows: Any bat that has a current ISF, WBSC, ASA 2000/2004/2013 or USA Softball certification Stamp			x	x	x	x
Catchers must wear shin pads, chest protectors and face masks with throat guard and catchers helmet	x	x	x	x	x	x
In addition, all catchers are recommended to wear the appropriate athletic support with cup (Jill for female).						
All Pitchers must wear defensive face masks while pitching & recommended all infielders wear defensive masks.	x	x	x	x	x	x
Proper footwear must be worn during all games by players and coaches. No sandals, crocs or metal cleated shoes.	x	x	x	x	x	x
Batters/base runners must wear a batting helmet with cage and chin strap fastened under the chin	x	x	x	x	x	x
Blood Rule: All cuts must be covered and a change of clothes must be made if necessary. Reasonable time will be allowed.	x	x	x	x	x	x

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3. Clothing & Jewelry

Rule	U11	U13	U15	U17	U19	U23
Player jerseys are provided by each Association and numbered shirts should be visible when batting. Coaches can wear Association shirts as provided. All players should wear their team shirts tucked in. Any player or coach wearing a sweater that has been defaced or altered may not be allowed to play. Players are encouraged to wear ball pants or acceptable athletic shorts.	x	x	x	x	x	x
It is recommended exposed jewelry such as wrist watches, bracelets, any type of earrings, neck chains should not be worn due to potential injury. Medical alert bracelets or necklaces are not considered jewelry.	x	x	x	x	x	x

4. Player/Coach Eligibility

Rule	U11	U13	U15	U17	U19	U23
All players must be registered with their home organization	x	x	x	x	x	x
Divisional age groups in YNL	x	x	x	x	x	x
Call-ups shall be drawn from the IMMEDIATE LOWER DIVISION from the team's host association within a maximum complement of nine players. Should a tenth player arrive during the game they will be added to the bottom of the batting order and the game will continue with ten players. Callups must be designated on the score sheet. Once a player is called up, the call up must play and play equally with the rest of the players on the team.	x	x	x	x	x	x
All coaches 18+ are encouraged to have a recent (within 2 yrs) VSS Police Check	x	x	x	x	x	x

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5. Game Play

Innings & Lineup

Rule	U11	U13	U15	U17	U19	U23
All games are scheduled to have "first pitch" start at their designated times, as per the website and schedule provided. No forfeits will be granted unless to play would be considered unsafe.	x	x	x	x	x	x
Max 5 Innings within time limits	x	x				
Max 7 Innings within time limits			x	x	x	x
Max 5 runs per inning	x	x				
Max 5 runs, innings 1-4, Max 7 runs, innings 5-7			x	x	x	x
No new inning to start after 1 ½ hours (90 minutes) from the scheduled start time	x	x	x	x	x	x
Players may be added to the batting line up if they arrive late, at any time during the game	x	x				
If player not arrive by 1st pitch, add to bottom of lineup. If player still not arrive when turn to bat, coach can take an "out" or remove player from lineup.			x	x	x	x
A minimum of 6 players are required to play	x					
A minimum of 7 players are required to play		x	x	x	x	x
A 10th player may be added to outfield only	x	x				
NO INFIELD warm up before game. Outfield or outside field of play only.	x	x	x	x	x	x
All teams should be ready to play 15 minutes before scheduled time. This includes completion of player lineup sheets for the Official Scorekeeper and the teams in the dugout areas.	x	x	x	x	x	x

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Completed Game

Rule	U11	U13	U15	U17	U19	U23
The home team will assign an official scorekeeper who will keep the score for both teams. The visiting team's scorekeeper shall verify the score.	x	x	x	x	x	x
Completed game - 5 inning game – 3 innings if called by the umpire (weather/light/safety) - 2 ½ if home team winning	x	x				
7 inning game – 4 innings if called by the umpire (weather/light/safety) - 3 ½ if home team winning			x	x	x	x
In case of a tie in the standings at the end of the Regular Season, the tie will be broken as follows: a. The record between the two teams including (1) The team with the most wins, in head to head play. (2) Total runs scored in all games, between both teams. b. The most wins in league play. c. Coin toss.	x	x	x	x	x	x
In the event of a rained out game, a reasonable attempt will be made to reschedule the game. After the game has started and it rains, it is up to the umpire's discretion whether the game is continued. If a game has not been canceled by the convenor by 5:00 pm (7:00 pm for late games) your team must show at the diamond or risk forfeiting the game. If games cannot be rescheduled, teams will be notified by the convener.	x	x	x	x	x	x
In order to ensure continued updates to divisional standings, the winning team must send the score sheet to the division convener or upload the score online within 48 hours after the finish of the game. Games sheets may also be scanned/photographed and sent to the division convener. Failure to remit game scores may result in a tie awarded instead of the actual score.	x	x	x	x	x	x

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6. Offense

Rule	U11	U13	U15	U17	U19	U23
All team members present for the game shall bat. A batting order consisting of the first and last names, and numbers shall be entered on the official score sheet. Any players who arrive late (after their first turn at bat) MUST be added to the end of the batting order when they arrive.	x	x	x	x	x	x
Bunting is permitted	x	x	x	x	x	x
No bat throwing, it is an automatic out and the ball is dead. 1 warning per game per team will be given before player is automatically called out and the play is dead.	x	x	x	x	x	x
Lead-offs are allowed after the ball leaves the pitcher's hand.			x	x	x	x
Lead-offs are allowed after the ball crosses home plate.	x	x				
If a runner is on 3rd, she can not steal home.	x					

Dropped 3rd Strike

Rule	U11	U13	U15	U17	U19	U23
Batters can run on a dropped 3rd strike, if 1st base is unoccupied and less than 2 out, or at any time once there are 2 out. If there is a drop 3rd strike behind the 1st base line, the runner may touch the white base and the 1st baseman may play the orange base to reduce injury.			x	x	x	x
On a dropped 3rd strike, the batter is automatically out and the ball remains alive	x	x				
Once the defensive pitcher gains control of the ball in the 8-foot circle, runners must commit themselves to whichever base they are going and continue directly to that base. If the runner stops, breaks stride or changes direction, this will be considered a leadoff and the runner will be called out. If the pitcher throws or threatens to throw towards a base then this is considered a play on the runner and the runner cannot be called out for "leadoff".		x	x	x	x	x
With 2 out and catcher on base, Coaches may (are encouraged to) replace catcher with the last out runner/batter.	x	x	x	x	x	x

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Pinch Runners & Sliding

Rule	U11	U13	U15	U17	U19	U23
With 2 out and catcher on base, Coaches may (are encouraged to) replace catcher with the last out runner/batter.	x	x	x	x	x	x
A pinch runner is permitted for an injured player and should be the last out or furthest in the batting order. If the coach is aware that a pinch runner is required at the beginning of the game, they must make the umpires & opposing coaches aware before the game begins.	x	x	x	x	x	x
An injured batter must successfully reach base prior to a pinch runner being substituted.	x	x	x	x	x	x
For plays at all bases the runner should slide if the defensive player has the ball or is about to receive the ball. If the runner remains on their feet and deliberately, with great force, crashes into the defensive player the runner shall be declared out. The ball is dead and all other runners must return to the last base touched at the time of the collision. If the act is determined by the umpire to be flagrant the offender (runner) may be ejected from the game.	x	x	x	x	x	x

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7. Defense

Pitching

Rule	U11	U13	U15	U17	U19	U23
A pitcher will be allowed 5 warm-up pitches initially and 3 warm-up pitches for each reappearance.	x	x	x	x	x	x
No hop/jump pitches permitted	x	x	x	x	x	x
Pitcher is allowed one foot to start back or step back move of the pitching rubber for the stride foot.	x	x	x	x	x	x
A pitcher's pivot foot must remain in contact with the ground (or even with the plane of the ground if there is a hole in front of the pitcher's plate).	x	x	x	x	x	x
A pitcher may pitch a maximum of 3 innings per game but no more than 2 consecutive innings. After 6 innings of play, the pitching rule is reset		x	x	x	x	x
A pitcher may only make two (2) appearances pitching in the same inning. This constitutes one (1) inning pitched	x	x	x	x	x	x
Call ups may pitch 1 inning if they are of lower division age group.	x	x	x	x	x	x
No intentional walks permitted, otherwise all runners awarded one extra base.	x	x	x	x	x	x
On any overthrow, the runner will be awarded 1 base from the time of the throw, 2 bases if the ball is deemed out of play.	x	x	x	x	x	x

Infield Fly Rule

Rule	U11	U13	U15	U17	U19	U23
Infield fly rule is in effect for all divisions unless otherwise specified.	x	x	x	x	x	x

Softball Canada: Sec. 52 INFIELD FLY

a. Is a fair fly ball (not including a line drive or a bunt):

- 1) When first and second, or first, second, and third bases are occupied.
- 2) That can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort.
- 3) Before two are out.

b. The pitcher, catcher, and any outfielder that positions himself in the infield on the play shall be considered infielders for the purpose of this rule.

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Softball Canada: Sec. 52 INFIELD FLY cont'd

NOTE:

1. When it becomes apparent that a batted ball will be an infield fly, either umpire shall immediately declare, "INFIELD FLY, IF FAIR-THE BATTER IS OUT," for the benefit of the runners.
2. The ball is live and runners may advance at the risk of the ball being caught, or retouch and advance after the ball is touched, the same as on any fly ball.
3. If the hit becomes a foul ball, it is treated the same as any foul.
4. If a declared infield fly is allowed to fall untouched to the ground, and bounces foul before passing first or third base, it is a foul ball.
5. If a declared infield fly falls untouched to the ground outside the baseline, and bounces fair before passing first or third base, it is an infield fly.

Fielder Positions and Lineup

Rule	U11	U13	U15	U17	U19	U23
a) All players must be played equally and fairly infield. Over the course of a game, each player must play at least one inning infield and one inning outfield.	x	x	x	x	x	x
No player can sit a second inning until every player has sat out 1 inning.	x	x	x	x	x	x
Coaches must use the official lineup sheet provided by their Association. The lineup sheet indicates scheduled positional play for all players and it must be presented to the home plate umpire if requested. The lineup sheet and the score sheet must be signed by both umpires.	x	x	x	x	x	x
A minimum of two players should rotate the Catchers position during each game.			x	x	x	x
Each player, with the exception of the pitcher, shall play in their assigned infield position for at least 1 complete inning in the infield within the first 3 innings. With the exception of the pitcher, no player shall play any position more than 2 innings in a row.	x	x	x	x	x	x

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Defensive Obstruction

Rule	U11	U13	U15	U17	U19	U23
Defensive OBSTRUCTION shall be applied per softball Canada rules (ref Sec 62).	x	x	x	x	x	x
Where a collision occurs between a batter/base runner and a defensive player due to obstruction, the batter/runner shall be awarded a base and shall not be subject to penalty (i.e. ejection)	x	x	x	x	x	x

8. Playoffs

Rule	U11	U13	U15	U17	U19	U23
Should the game end in a tie, the next inning and subsequent innings will be played according to international tie breaking rules. The last batter in the order will begin the inning on 2nd base. The maximum runs per inning will be 5. At the end of each inning (both top and bottom must be played) the score will be examined and the team scoring the most runs will be determined as the winner of the game. The game ends once one team scores more runs than the other	x	x	x	x	x	x
Any player who plays less than 3 games of the regular season will not be eligible to play in the Closing Weekend. Any medical exceptions must be applied for and approved by three members of the Board of Directors plus the applicable division Convenor one week prior to the Closing Weekend.	x	x	x	x	x	x

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Call-ups

Rule	U11	U13	U15	U17	U19	U23
A team may call up a maximum of 2 players from the immediate lower division and must be called from an eliminated team first. If 7 regular players are present at the beginning of the game, the call-up may not play. Call-ups must be designated on the game sheet prior to the start of the game. Call-ups not designated at the start of the game cannot be added once the game has started. If a regular team member arrives after the start of the game, they may be added to the bottom of the batting order until a complement of nine players is reached. Should a tenth player arrive after the start of the game they will be substituted in where the first call-up was and the call-up shall be removed from the game and may not re-enter. Call-ups must wear their own respective jerseys.	x	x	x	x	x	x
The Home Team throughout the entire playoff series will be the team that finishes higher in the regular season schedule.	x	x	x	x	x	x

9. Umpires

Rule	U11	U13	U15	U17	U19	U23
Umpires are provided by the host Association and they must be used. Face masks, chest protectors and chin pads to be supplied and worn by all plate umpires.	x	x	x	x	x	x
The Home team is to supply the plate umpire if an umpire has not been provided. The Visiting team may supply the base umpire if an umpire has not been provided. If umpires are provided by the Association, they must be used. Face masks to be supplied and worn by all plate umpires. If necessary, a coach may umpire.	x	x	x	x	x	x
In the event of a game cancelled due to umpire not available, and a makeup game can not be scheduled, each team will be awarded a tie (a single point).	x	x	x	x	x	x
All UMPIRES' DECISIONS ARE FINAL.	x	x	x	x	x	x

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Disputes & Unruly Behaviour

Rule	U11	U13	U15	U17	U19	U23
Other than asking for a check swing if a base umpire present, there are only 4 situations that warrant an appeal. A single coach must initiate the appeal & only 1 appeal per game per team. 1) Missing a base, or touching the white portion of first base when a play is being made at that base, 2) Leaving a base early when a fly ball is caught, 3) Attempting to advance to second base after making a turn at first, 4) Batting out of order.	x	x	x	x	x	x
NO RULE BOOKS ALLOWED ON THE FIELD of play DURING A GAME.	x	x	x	x	x	x
Only one (1) designated coach from each team may discuss any problems with the umpire(s) throughout the course of the game, i.e. no parents. The coach must be identified prior to the start of the game. It is the coach's responsibility to control the parents of their team and ask them to abide by the rules and respect the umpires. EFFECT: The coach and or parent may be ejected from the park by the umpire.	x	x	x	x	x	x
Coaches cannot enter the field of play unless time is called & permission granted by the umpire.	x	x	x	x	x	x
Official team coaches and players are allowed in the dugout. Spectators & parents are not allowed.		x	x	x	x	x